

The Local Roads and Streets Council

Partnering to enhance the quality of Wisconsin's local roads and streets...



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Who Are We?

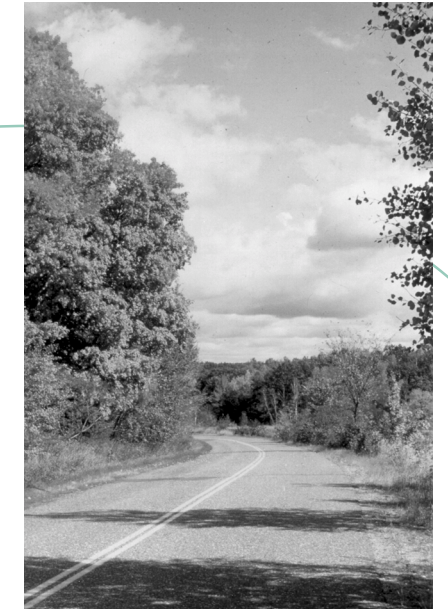
The Council is comprised of representatives from all levels of local government, including the Wisconsin Towns Association, Wisconsin Counties Association, Wisconsin Alliance of Cities, League of Wisconsin Municipalities, Regional Planning Commissions, Metropolitan Planning Organizations, along with WisDOT. WisDOT's Division of Transportation Investment Management (DTIM) staffs the Council and is the conduit among the LRSC, the department and external interests. This cross-section of transportation stakeholders allows for input from a wide range of viewpoints and perspectives, which is an asset in developing policy and direction for the LRSC.

LRSC History and Formation

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) secretary initiated the Council in 1995, creating an advisory body of local officials to address the continuing impact that changes in federal/state policies have on local transportation. The LRSC brought together a unique and diverse array of local and regional transportation officials to examine issues and develop recommendations regarding local roads and streets. The Council was formed to foster a cooperative state/local partnership on local transportation issues and to ensure the continued efficient use of public funds.

The LRSC concentrates its efforts within four main areas as charged by the Secretary:

- enhance and facilitate communication among various state associations and WisDOT;
- investigate the impact of federal legislation on state policies;
- evaluate the needs and methods for collecting local road network data and develop policy initiatives based on that data; and
- review policies which affect local roads and streets, with special emphasis on cost containment.



The Importance of the Local Roads and Streets Council

Of the approximately 112,000 miles of streets, roads and highways in Wisconsin, roads under local jurisdiction make up 90% of that mileage. These local roadways serve as the "last leg of the trip" for most commerce. Clearly, Wisconsin's economy is dependent upon a strong system of major highways, along with a well-maintained and efficient system of local roads. Together, they create a vital network providing for the circulation of our economy's lifeblood. The role of the Local Roads and Streets Council (LRSC) is to provide recommendations to enhance this high quality, cost-effective local roads system. In addition, the LRSC serves as a forum through which strong local and state transportation policy partnerships are built, and provides an arena for local governments to discuss issues ranging from storm water management to road ratings.



Please turn this page for more about the LRSC.



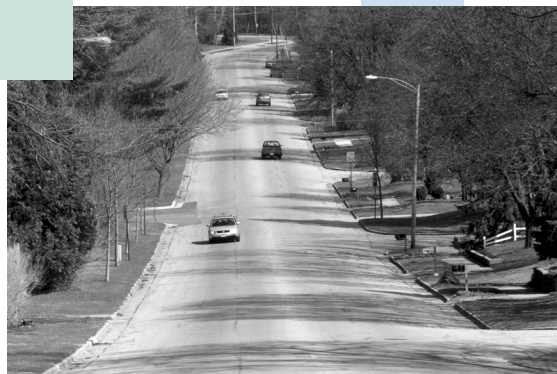
LRSC Accomplishments

To maximize the input of all LRSC stakeholders, Council members currently divide the workload among four groups: the Executive; the Local Transportation Funding Study Group; Regulatory, Environmental, and Legislative (REAL); and Education and Communication (E & C).

Each group's membership is comprised of at least one member from each local government association. In addition, membership sometimes expands beyond Council members to include outside stakeholders or non-Council local government representatives with special skills or expertise that can contribute to the group's efforts.

Highlights of LRSC work group accomplishments include:

- Preliminary design and initial development of the Wisconsin Information System for Local Roads (WISLR), a comprehensive and sophisticated local roads database and mapping system, as well as education and training for local officials on that system;
- Education and training on how to use PASER (Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating) and PASERWARE (the software used in conjunction with PASER);
- Creation of the Delivery Cost Study Group Report (2000), which recommended that project delivery be enhanced through policy streamlining and the inclusion of additional transportation stakeholders in the project delivery process;
- Recommendations to enhance cost savings, such as standardizing specifications for local government projects, grouping or bundling projects to take advantage of economies of scale, and improving the timing of bids to increase competitiveness and contractor scheduling;
- Production of a *GTA Study Report* that clarifies General Transportation Aid (GTA) program goals and determines whether those goals are being met, recommends a change in the GTA formula in order to improve overall cost containment, and suggests changes in the minimum municipal cushion in order to assist communities in reducing or eliminating large fluctuations in payment;
- Education and outreach to local government and transportation officials with regard to a wide range of local policy and implementation issues.



Future Avenues

The LRSC is committed to continuing its efforts to assist in the improvement and maintenance of existing local roads policies and processes in several ways:

- The LRSC believes in the importance of its function as a resource and sounding board for WisDOT on all issues that have an impact on local communities.
- The LRSC is dedicated to continuing communication and education for local transportation stakeholders. The Council will continue to support outreach and education efforts that benefit all transportation stakeholders and processes.
- The LRSC recognizes the importance of forging and maintaining a strong and effective working partnership among WisDOT, local governments and associations.
- LRSC members appreciate and understand that few things are as important to the overall health of a community as the vitality and effectiveness of the local transportation system. The LRSC welcomes the opportunity to continue to actively participate in the development of policies impacting the overall maintenance and improvement of Wisconsin's local roads system.

